

THE DAILY NEWS.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1875.

THE DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN CHARLOTTE.

Loss Not Less than \$300,000 or \$350,000.

We give Sunday a brief account of the destructive fire in Charlotte on Friday evening last, but we copy the following particulars from the Charlotte of Saturday morning:

About three o'clock yesterday afternoon a fire alarm was sounded, and in a few moments it was announced that some cotton on the platform at the depot of the Charlotte and Augusta and the Richmond and Danville railroads was on fire.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The origin of the fire is at this writing (seven o'clock P. M.) unknown. The cause of the fire is believed to be the first man to discover the fire, some two hundred feet to the east of the cotton platform. Some say that the fire caught from sparks from the engine; others say that it was ignited by a spark from an engine on the Atlantic, Tennessee and Ohio railroad track, while others assert most positively that the fire, originating where in the dark, and was caught from either source, and conjecture that it first caught from a match, or some tobacco pipe. All that is now known positively is that we have had the most fearful and destructive fire which has ever taken place in this city.

Charlotte never does anything by halves. Whatever she undertakes she does in earnest. She concluded to have a fire. She remembered Chicago and Boston, and while she could not, probably, eclipse those conflagrations, she thought it would be well, probably, to have such a fire as would be a lesson to property owners, and come as near as possible to redeeming her reputation as a first-class city.

In ten minutes after the alarm of fire had been given there was probably not less than a thousand people on the street, but the fire was so far from the depot, that the thousands of cotton which were on

THE COTTON PLATFORM

burned like so much tinder. Every effort to put it out at first was a failure, for the wind was blowing at a most perfect hurricane. In fact, it was so rapid that a fire could have occurred at a more unfavorable time. The current of the wind from the north-east carried it directly from the depot of the North Carolina depot, or rather, the offices of that company, and the large and spacious warehouse and depot of the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta railroad, and in a few minutes the fire had been given, both of these buildings were on fire. Most of the books and papers were gotten out, but the transfer of the cotton to the depot was so rapid that very little time was given for the removal of any freight, and the forked tongues of the flames soon licked up the cotton, and in a few minutes the value of the buildings. About this time the large wooden building belonging to W. J. Black, and formerly the Exchange Hotel, was in imminent danger, but by almost superhuman efforts it was saved, after catching on fire several times. About the time the fire had been given, the engine "The Hornet," got to the scene of the conflagration, and in a short time had the fire somewhat under control; that is, it kept from spreading in the direction of the main business portion of the town. The large

COTTON PLATFORM

recently erected by the Carolina Central railroad was this time in most imminent danger, and, communicating, as it did, with the foundry buildings of Captain John Wilkes, and leading in the direction of the woolen buildings which are situated just west of the foundry, everybody felt that extra efforts must be made to save these buildings. Many business men, who had gone to the depot to see the fire, were seen to turn involuntarily towards their places of business, in order to save their books, etc., when the wind blew towards the Exchange, but the HORNET STEAM FIRE COMPANY, with their splendid engines, soon had the fire under control in this part of the town. But just at this time the danger became apparent. Flakes of the burning cotton were carried, in some instances, hundreds of yards, as chaff before the wind, and were communicating with the Exchange, and the direction of Mechanicsville. The first house to take fire by

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GUANOS.

OFFICE OF THOS. BRANCH & CO.,

BANKERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

RICHMOND, VA., February 25th, 1875.

The Guanahani Guano Company has seen fit to publish a card to the effect that our "Cat Island Guano" is of an inferior quality to their importations, and had been rejected by them. From the reputation of the agent of that card, we presume they did not know that this statement was false. We propose to prove to the satisfaction of that company and of the public the following facts, viz:

1st. That their agent at the Islands attempted (and failed) to get control of deposits of Guano that were secured by a member of our firm who is now at the Islands.

2d. That our Cat Island Guano, according to the analysis of Professor White, of the University of Georgia, (who analyzed for the Guanahani Company,) is at least the equal of the Guano reported and sold by the Guanahani Company last spring in the cotton sections of Virginia and North Carolina.

Our Guano shall stand or fall by the crucial test of the analytical chemist, and not by cards put out on the eve of the planting season. We will have each cargo analyzed before its receipt, or offered to the public, and we will publish the report of the laboratory on the plantation; and until they can compete with us successfully in these tests, their paper attacks will not hurt the best natural Guano (except Peruvian) yet offered to the public.

They write about "their standard." Will they publish it? Why did they publish a standard last year, and withdraw it? We have taken proper steps in the future to protect ourselves from any injury arising from the improper publication of the Guanahani Company.

THOS. BRANCH & CO.,

Importers of Cat Island Guano.

Important to Farmers! Only \$35 Per Ton!

CAT ISLAND GUANO.

A GENUINE NATURAL GUANO.

Having been successful bidders against the Guanahani Guano Company of Petersburg, Va., and accepted the same position for the sale of the Guano imported by Messrs. Thos. Branch & Co., of Richmond, Virginia, which is the same Guano and of the same quality, and I now offer it to you at the following reduced prices.

THOS. BRANCH & CO.,

Importers, Richmond, Va.

WM. R. GRIFFITH,

General Agent.

Analysis of the only two cargoes of CAT ISLAND GUANO placed on the market up to this date, February 25th, 1875.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, LABORATORY OF APPLIED CHEMISTRY.

WM. R. GRIFFITH, Esq., Gen. Agent, Cat Island Guano, Richmond, Va.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to yours, I would say UNDOUBTEDLY of the opinion that in most NATURAL GUANO, the forms of combination of the valuable elements present are SUPERIOR to those which are available in manufactured fertilizers, and although this cannot enter as a factor in determining COMMERCIAL values, it INCREASES the relative AGRICULTURAL value of the Guano to a considerable extent. Very truly yours,

H. E. WHITE, Prof. of Applied Chemistry, University of Georgia.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, LABORATORY OF APPLIED CHEMISTRY.

Athens, Ga., February 8th, 1875.

Analysis of a sample of CAT ISLAND GUANO from the cargoes of Schooners "Deagles" and "Bendish" received from Messrs. BRANCH & SMITH, of Augusta, Georgia.

Moisture (det. at 212°) 22.18

Volatiles and Organic Matter 8.02

Containing Nitrogen (Organic) 4.40

Phosphoric Acid 18.42

Carbonic Acid 3.18

Line 3.30

Manure 3.24

Iron and Alumina 6.28

Potash 1.72

Sodium Chloride 1.03

Sand and Insoluble Matter 1.48

The Phosphoric Acid (3.42) is present in several forms of combination, as follows:

1st. In combination with Lime, in a form soluble in pure water 0.14

2d. In combination with Lime, in a form insoluble, except in strong acids 2.67

3d. In combination with Lime, in a form insoluble, except in strong acids 2.16

Alumina 1.42

Total 14.33

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